



CHRIS CHRISTIE
Governor

KIM GUADAGNO
Lt. Governor

New Jersey Office of the Attorney General

Division of Consumer Affairs
State Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors
124 Halsey Street, 3rd Floor, Newark, NJ 07102
www.njconsumeraffairs.org

August 30, 2016

Via Certified and Regular Mail
Victor Vinegra, P.E., P.L.S.
425 Hazel Avenue
Garwood, New Jersey 07027-1444

RE: I/M/O Victor Vinegra, P.E., P.L.S.
Complaint No.: 113285

Offer of Settlement In Lieu of Filing a Formal Disciplinary Complaint

Dear Mr. Vinegra:

This letter is to advise you that the New Jersey State Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors (hereinafter the "Board") has had an opportunity to review information concerning your professional conduct in connection with the above captioned complaint.

More specifically, you were awarded a professional services contract from the City of Elizabeth to prepare engineering plans, specifications and documents. You hired Frank Dobiszewski, P.E. of Jen Electric, Inc. ("subconsultant") to prepare engineering plans and specifications for the traffic signal installations. Thereafter, you submitted final plans, specifications and documents for the entire project, which were signed and sealed by you, to your client. However, you also included your subconsultant's plans and specifications, which were not signed and sealed by him. Accordingly, upon review of all available information, the Board has preliminarily found that probable cause exists to support a finding that you are in violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(h) and N.J.A.C. 13:40-8.1 in that you submitted final plans prepared by your subconsultant without his signature and seal.

As a result of the foregoing, the Board has preliminarily determined that the above violation is sufficient to warrant the initiation of formal proceedings against you. Notwithstanding that decision, the Board has determined that it will first offer you an opportunity to settle this matter in an attempt to avoid the initiation of more formal proceedings if you consent to the payment of a **civil penalty** totaling **\$500.00** to be paid immediately upon your signing of the acknowledgment at the bottom of this letter in connection with the above violation.



CHRISTOPHER S. PORRINO
Attorney General

STEVE C. LEE
Director

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 45015
Newark, NJ 07101
(973) 504-6460
(973) 273-8020 FAX

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NJ BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS AND LAND SURVEYORS

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Additionally, the Board **strongly recommends** that you utilize written contracts in connection with your subconsultants on future projects.

In making a determination, you should know that pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-25 any person who engages in conduct which is in violation of any provision of the statutes and regulations administered by the Board shall, in addition to any other sanctions provided by statute, be liable for a civil penalty of not more than \$10,000.00 for the first violation and not more than \$20,000.00 for the second and each subsequent violation. However, in an effort to resolve this matter amicably, the Board offers to settle on the terms stated above. If you are willing to resolve this matter on the offered settlement terms, you may do so by signing the acknowledgment at the bottom of this letter and returning it to the Board office within 15 days. In such event, this letter shall be a matter of public record.

In the event you are unwilling to settle this matter on the offered terms, it will be referred to the Attorney General's office for the initiation of formal proceedings. In such event, you will be afforded an opportunity to defend against the alleged violations. You are advised, however, that in the event formal charges are filed, you may be assessed civil penalties in an amount greater than that herein offered in settlement should any charges against you be sustained. Additionally, the Board may, if the facts herein or any additional facts are found to so warrant, enter an order requiring you to reimburse certain monies and/or requiring you to pay costs incurred by the Board. Should you have any questions concerning this letter or the settlement offer herein, I suggest that you contact Deputy Attorney General Michelle Albertson, who may be reached at (973) 648-7297.

If you elect to settle this matter, you should sign the acknowledgment at the bottom of this letter and return it to the Board within fifteen (15) days following your receipt of this letter. In the event that the Board receives no response from you within fifteen (15) days, the Board's settlement offer shall be considered withdrawn and the matter will be referred to the Attorney General's Office for the initiation of formal proceedings.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL
ENGINEERS AND LAND SURVEYORS

By: 
JOANNE LEONE
Executive Director

cc: Lawrence Powers, Esquire

ACKNOWLEDGMENT: I, Victor Vinegra, P.E., P.L.S., hereby acknowledge that I have read and reviewed the settlement proposal set forth in the above letter. I do not contest the Board's findings. I am aware that, by signing this acknowledgment, I am waiving any rights I may have to defend myself against any charges of wrongdoing at an administrative hearing. I am also aware that the action taken against me by the Board herein is a matter of public record and that this letter is a public document. I hereby agree to the immediate payment of a civil penalty of \$500.00 for the violation set forth herein above.



Victor Vinegra, RE., P.L.S.

Dated: 9/8/16